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First snowflake of season has me yearning for spring

This time of year is like the lull before the storm for all rural routers. Leaves crunch like cornflakes under your feet as you walk the yard and the branches look bleak and barren. It's sad to see the trees bare and it's even worse to see the white stuff start to cover the grass and ground.

Last spring seems like a lifetime ago when the bulbs first started peeking out of the earth. Now all that's left of the gardens are frost-bitten remains of mushy dead impatiens and life feels like

it is over.

It wasn't that long ago that the sound of lawnmowers and chainsaws were heard coming from backyards everywhere.



Rural Route Ruth

Ruth LeBlanc

Now an eerie quiet hangs over our countryside as we all batten our rural hatches in anticipation of winter.

We rural routers know what lies ahead in the next long months. Snow we call it, the white stuff that makes driving a nightmare, cumbersome boots a necessity and walking an aerobic exercise.

Winter is like the opera, you either love it or you hate it. Those on the love side: rural routing skaters, snowmobilers and skiers, of course. They greet the snow with happy faces and revel in the falling flakes as happy cold thoughts dance through their minds. We've all seen them. Happily prancing through snow without a depressing thought in mind. They really do seem to like winter, as odd as it may seem.

Representing the other side I awoke just yesterday morning to the first of many white blankets of snow settling on my lawn and got depressed. Those on the hate side are rural routers who cringe at flakes and count the days till spring.

Seeds catalogues become your friend and plans for spring and summer fun become an obsession. It's not that we hate the snow, it is just that there is a time and place for it.

Now, I couldn't stand to have a green Christmas. There is something magical about falling flakes that add that holiday magic, but like any good trick they should know when to do the disappearing act.

When drifts of snow line driveways and the novelty has worn off, go away snow... we'll be in touch.

Poor lawn mowing rural routers. Just when the lawnmower get tucked away in the garage, out come the snow shovels.

I always laugh when I hear the first mower in the earliest of spring. As soon as the snow leaves the ground some happy rural router grabs that mower and mows the mushy earth. It always makes me smile because I know they, too, have waited for that moment to get out in first fresh air of spring.

This year I got the Big Guy a rider mower and thought he'd feel like king of the lawn. Wrong mower move for me to make. The old beaten push mower called to him from its dusty resting place and before you could say "whipper snipper" he was flying around the yard as happy as a lark.

So dust off the shovels and think warm thoughts, rural routers. We have a long white road ahead of us.

Remember though, like the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, we can look forward to spring at the end of that long white road!

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